

Still the fight for Speaker continues, and will there is no Speaker. To-morrow week will reach the 22nd of the month, the extreme limit of time reached in 1849—above the number of ballots then reached will have been taken within the present week, should things keep on without any decisive action. Richardson still keeps on a ship of the line with 74 guns. Banks rather falls of. The expectations, who hope, in some contingency to be taken up themselves, keep scattering around and thus preventing a majority. Suppose it should take Congress twenty days to get a Speaker, that Speaker ought to be dear to the American people, for his election will cost them about fifty thousand dollars. But Uncle Sam is rich and don't care for small sums. So let the thing go on.

Up to Thursday night fifty-five ballots had been had for Speaker of the House, but without result. Since the meeting of Congress the vote has been taken about five times a day, on an average, so that within the remaining two days the House can easily reach and go beyond the extreme limit reached in 1849, although then a full week longer in doing it; so that the present Congress has, at least, exhibited industry, though without much direction, so far.

The last ballot on Thursday showed little change from previous ones; Banks, 104; Richardson, 73; Fuller, 38; scattering, 7.

Hon. Fayette McMullen says that if they don't elect a Speaker within three days, he will make a proposition for compromise. He would not tell it. Mr. Houston, of Alabama, says that it is a very fair one. Let all the opposition come over to the Democrats.

It is evident that the present House of Representatives does not represent correctly the settled and permanent opinions of the country upon the sectional issue, or upon any other issue. Indeed, it would be hard to see how the majority could do so, since the various factions and aims composing that majority have really no settled or permanent opinions of their own; certainly none upon which a respectable corporal's guard can meet together harmoniously.

But apart from all this, everybody knows that a great many of the elections were carried in a grand flurry—a furious and unreasoning excitement, and by the co-operation of every element that could contribute to the creation and increase of such excitement. Even now the feeling has already changed. Recent events have shown that were the elections in many of the States to take place now, the same men would not be chosen, nor the same ultra views be sustained. It would appear reasonable and proper that the representatives of the popular ferment of the last year or so, should retain some recollection of the tenure by which they hold public position, of the changed state of things throughout the country consequent upon the subsidence of excitement, and the reaction induced by the second, sober thought of the people. All who have any desire for nationality—any respect for permanent and defined views and opinions, ought to consider these things, and see where such permanent and defined views and opinions are to be found, in regard to which there can be no doubt. Such views and opinions, with the policy resulting from them, are only to be found with the National Democrats, who move in solid phalanx. If a rally for a national man for Speaker is to be made, it ought to be upon the basis of the national Democratic movement, as the only organized and powerful nucleus around which to rally—the only one which has preceded or defined policy—the only one composed of men elected, not by passing excitement, but in opposition to it—the only one now gaining strength in the country on account of its hold national ground.

Wm. J. Yates, Esq., who for a length of time past has so ably and successfully conducted that sterling Democratic paper, the Fayetteville North Carolinian, announces in the issue of that paper bearing date December 15th, that, in consequence of impaired health and a large and arduous business, he has found it necessary to take a partner in to relieve him of a portion of the duties pertaining to the establishment. He has, therefore, associated with him, as joint Editor and Proprietor of the North Carolinian, Josiah Johnson, Esq., of Sampson county, a gentleman well qualified for the situation, and who will materially add to the interest of the paper.

Mr. Johnson appears before the readers of the Carolinian in a very well-written salutatory, in which he takes occasion to avow that he has ever been a firm and unwavering Democrat. To this we can cheerfully bear the fullest testimony; and we will also add that we have always found him to be a very worthy gentleman.

We have no doubt that the Carolinian, under the joint control of Messrs. Yates and Johnson, will continue to be, as it has ever been, a true and reliable Democratic organ. In conclusion, we wish for the firm the utmost success, personally, pecuniarily, and politically.

Population of New York.

The recent census of the State of New York, taken under the direction of the State authorities, shows the population of that State to be 3,466,118, being a gain within the last five years of 370,724.

The population of the city of New York is 659,810, being a gain of near about 130,000. Indeed, the gain is all in the cities and large towns. The city of New York, Brooklyn, &c., around New York Bay, show considerably over one half of all the increased population in the State, and the other cities and large towns will account for the balance, leaving the agricultural population stationary, and even, in some cases, retrograding. Can there be any wonder then, at the high prices of living where agricultural occupations are so much neglected in comparison with those dependent upon towns. Young as our country is, splendid as its resources, inviting men to the cultivation of the soil, it is nevertheless, a remarkable fact that the proportion of town to country population, is actually greater in our Northern States than it is on the old over-crowded and worn-out European continent. There is evidently something wrong in all this—something unnatural, and, therefore, improper. Large towns are necessary. They have their ends and objects, but we cannot regard their undue multiplication and increase in any other light than that of a calamity, producing a state of things fully sufficient to account for all the tales of want, suffering and disturbances, of which we read and hear. We want the South to develop her towns and her markets, but sincerely trust that her agricultural character may never be sunk in the growth of towns to anything like the extent prevailing at the North.

DICKENS' LITTLE FOLKS.—Mr. Whitaker has laid out our table "Little Paul" and "Florence Dombey" from Dickens' "Dombey and Son." They will be found quite interesting, especially for the Little Folks, for whom they are intended.

From the report of the Secretary of the Treasury it appears that there were in the United States during the year ending June 30th, 1855, 2,024 vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 583,450 tons.

The war between the "American Organ," the central press of the "Order," and its Southern associates continues and grows interesting. After having received a severe rebuke from the Richmond Whig, it is now engaged in replying to an article in the Petersburg Intelligencer. The matter is this—the Organ wants the pap. It finds that that pap is in the hands, or at the disposal of the Black Republicans and Northern Know-Nothings, and that the Southern Know-Nothings are totally powerless and without influence as compared with their Northern brethren. In this position of affairs the Organ says that the 12th Article of the Philadelphia Platform ought to be abandoned as a test of anything; and, in fact, that it amounts simply to an expression of opinion on the part of those who voted for it. That it is evident that the majority of the order will not subscribe to it, and that it is really no tenet of the said order.

This, to be sure, is no more than what every Democratic press insisted upon from the first; and, indeed, what was plain to the dullest comprehension. The 12th Article, lame and incomplete as it was, for it is no more, never was understood to be binding upon the North, and the Northern members of the order promptly said so; and now, the Organ at Washington City says so too—says that there is no use talking about any nationality upon the Slavery question—it can't be done—there is no agreement upon that question—that is to be ignored—the lamb is to lie down with the lion—the Louisiana slaveholder with the Massachusetts abolitionist, &c., &c., &c.

The Petersburg Intelligencer calls the Organ, or rather the Editor, Judge Vespaian Ellis, to account for alleged inconsistency in assuming this position. It charges that Judge Ellis, having been a member of the Philadelphia Council, by which the 12th Article was passed, acted improperly in trying to give it the go-by so coolly. To this the Organ replies that Judge Ellis did not go for that plank—thought it wouldn't do—didn't believe the Northern brethren would stand on it. Thought the measure ill-advised, dangerous, and even destructive of all harmony in the ranks, and the result has proved that he was not in error on this point. Mr. Rayner, of North Carolina, opposed the 12th Article, and presented a substitute declaring substantially that the question of Slavery should form no part of the "American" platform. Mr. Ellis went for the restoration of the Missouri Compromise line, through the action of the "American" party, and without legislation. So it was—this 12th Article never was regarded as anything or binding upon anybody, and its only object seems to have been to gull the South. The Editor of the Organ says that he is guilty of no inconsistency—that the case always stood as he now represents it.

By the way, the Organ rather gets the Intelligencer on one point—the fact that the Intelligencer "rejoiced with exceeding joy at the result of the late New York elections," which result was obtained upon the Binghampton platform, in which the 12th article of the Philadelphia platform was repudiated in the strongest and plainest terms. But, then, what Southern organ of the order is not amenable to the same charge of "rejoicing with exceeding joy over the results of elections" obtained upon even worse platforms than the aforesaid Binghampton platform? Let the K. N. press that is guiltless throw the first stone at the Organ. If the stoning be deferred until the guiltless Know-Nothing press be found, the Organ will remain unstoned.

The whole thing is coming out pretty fast, and the Southern people can see for themselves, and queer enough things they will see.

One Week Later from Europe.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—The steamer Baltic, with advices from Liverpool to the 1st inst. is below. Rumors prevailed that Russia proposed to make negotiations for peace.

There is no war news. The only features of importance in the news of the week is a variety of rumors all stating that there is at least a prospect of peace. One rumor says that Russia had formally requested Prussia to make conciliatory offers to the Western powers, and Prussia is reported to have accepted the mission, to which the rumor is that proposals have been submitted to Napoleon on behalf of Russia which can be honorably accepted—namely, that Russia will conclude peace with the Western Powers without the intervention of either Austria or Prussia, Russia according to the guaranteed independence of the Danubian Principalities, the freedom of the Black Sea—both parties to continue their preparations for war but no active hostilities to be entered upon up to an agreed date.

All this is possibly premature, but hopes are strong that peace may arise.

Te excitement in England respecting the difficulty with the United States had almost passed away. The Danish conference on the sound does question met on the 20th ult., but took no action.

The King of Prussia, in a speech to the Chamber, announced decidedly the continued neutrality of Prussia.

Some unimportant changes have occurred in the English Cabinet.

The King of Sardinia arrived at London on Friday, where he met with an enthusiastic reception.

General Canrobert left Copenhagen for Paris on the 30th ult. His mission is said to have proved most satisfactory.

The operations of the allies at Sebastopol for attacking the northern forts were proceeding rapidly.

PRUSSIA.—At the opening of the Prussian Chambers, the king announced, in congratulatory terms, that the country was able to take care of itself under all circumstances, and was fully prepared to carry out all existing treaties, but had resolved to make no new ones.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 13.—Dates from Vera Cruz to the 8th, and the city of Mexico to the 5th, have been received by the steamer Mexico. A conspiracy had been discovered, the object of which is to make General Uraga President. Uraga, Padre Miranda and Orellana had been arrested, and the affair was causing great excitement.

Col. Robles has been appointed to succeed Gen. Almonte.

It was reported that Comfere would retire from the ministry.

The church was opposed to the existing government, and affairs were in general confusion.

From the London Athenaeum, Nov. 3. Rogers in Autobiography.

A correspondent, who is interested in Autobiography, sends us, by way of warning to our celebrities, a notice of a curious case of an autograph collection, which occurred in France some little time ago, although only recently brought to light. An ingenious rogue, being rather badly off, as rogues often are, hit upon a mode of replenishing his exchequer by means of a novel description of begging letter—feigning himself to be in the deepest mental distress, overwhelmed with an accumulation of trifling miseries, which had driven him to absolute despair, and professed himself to be utterly disgusted with life, and on the point terminating his troubles by committing suicide. In this state of mind, he pathetically entreated the person addressed to inform him confidentially what he really thought of the right of the overburdened wretch to his mortal coil.

Having crowded into his letter all the touching and miserable words at his command, he wrote copies of it to many of the most distinguished persons in Europe. In due time answers came crowding in. Espartero replied laconically—"Sir, I do not advise you to kill yourself. Death is a bullet which we all must encounter, sooner or later, in the battle of life; and it is our part to wait for it patiently."

Others—good natured men—filled the four sides of the paper with the high teachings of lofty philosophy or with sound religious advice—replete with studied argument and amiable eloquence. The answer of Lacordaire was a masterpiece of evangelical persuasion. He offered to confer with the poor despairing wretch, and entreated him, with the warmest sympathy, to dismiss forever from his mind all thoughts of his meditated crime. Such letters were the very things which the impatient rascal wanted. As soon as received, they were taken off to a dealer in autographs, who purchased them at prices proportioned to the notoriety of the writer and the length of his effusion—5, 10, 20, and even 50 francs apiece. The trick was brought to light by a collector chancing to buy three of the answers. Finding them all upon one theme, his curiosity was excited; he called upon the dealer to inquire their history, and found that he had purchased a collection of letters, within a few days, from one person—five and forty similar letters. The whole were secured at the price of six hundred francs. Amongst them was of Montalembert, Cardinal Antonelli, Fenimore Cooper, Havier de Maistre, Sophie Gav, Abdel-Kader, Armand, Marck, Alexander Humboldt, Tour Johannott, Tagliozzi, Henry Emile, Alfred de Vigny, Rachel, Sontag, Chas. Dickens, Emilio Solimiro, George Sand, Jules Lacroix, and many others.

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A cargo of a somewhat novel character, says a Liverpool paper, has arrived this week at Liverpool. The cargo in question is so unusual as to require a more lengthy notice than a line in our columns in announcing the arrival of the vessel that brings it. On Tuesday the American ship Harvey Birch, Capt. Nelson, arrived in the Mersey from San Francisco, with a cargo of flour and wheat, and a small quantity of wool. It is not a very long time since breadstuffs and other provisions were imported into California from Great Britain, and as we understand the flour and wheat brought by the Harvey Birch has been grown in the former country, we cannot but remark the progressing agriculture, notwithstanding the attractions of the California gold fields. This fact promises well for the future welfare of that distant State of the American Union, and we hope to see our own colony of Australia, at no very distant day, materially contributing towards the quantity of breadstuffs we draw from abroad. The earth has more lasting treasures than gold, other than miner and hunter, the permanent prosperity of a folk's country, and although the high price of flour likely to rule in England this winter may have something to do with the consignment of California flour to agents at this port, the fact is sufficiently important to commerce, and so pregnant with example to our Australian colony, as pointing out the direction in which the best interests of the colonists lie, that we have thought the above arrival not unworthy of a few remarks.

The following is true as Gospel: JONATHAN A. PEACE-MAKER.—It is avouched in the New York Herald, that an ambassador from Russia will soon arrive at Washington to ask "the United States to mediate between Russia and the allies."

We are afraid that this mediation would be very like playing train-on a house on fire. Again, Jonathan cares not to interfere for the mere unprofitable love of peace-making; being very much of the philosophic mind of the poet, as rendered years ago by Carlyle:—

"This is neither my bread, nor my cake, nor my butter, nor my cheese; The fish all swim at peace in the lake, And take no heed of the boats and the barges."

Now Uncle Sam is much of this opinion. His own Johnny cakes are preferred to cabinet puddings; and his own bread is any other loaf—his chief care to have it very thickly buttered.

Yes, brother Jonathan wants his bread thickly buttered, and nothing but this infernal war prevents him from having as much butter as he wants. As it is, he is feeding very well, but the minute that John Bull ceases to be a fool and Johnny Capreau a sly-boots, he will do better.

MILITARY.—Some gentlemen in Syracuse, New York desirous, no doubt, of getting a life money for themselves and glory for the military, propose to give a watch worth \$500 to the best drilled infantry company in the United States, not in the army. The inducements are as follows:—

The likeness of the winning company will be engraved on one side of the watch, and that of the officers on the reverse—the captain to own the watch—All companies to drill by the same tactics, have full thirty muskets each, and to wear such uniform as they please. The trial to take place at some place to be known hereafter, on the 20th of June, 1856; companies to elect judges, and each to pay \$20 entrance fee.

AMERICAN BITUMINOUS COAL.—The first shipment of Diamond ore coal, from Linton, Jefferson county, Ohio, has been received here, and specimens in proportion to 12,800 tons in giving assurance to all who exchange, No. 313 Beaver street. It is claimed to be fully equal to English coal, while it can be furnished at a greatly reduced cost. It resembles the Canal coal, burns with a large blaze, without waste, and evolves a strong heat. The bed from which it is procured covers 450 acres, each acre being estimated to contain 12,800 tons. The aggregate supply of 5,760,000 tons.—N. Y. Jour. Com.

TONNAGE OF THE UNITED STATES.—It appears from an official statement that the aggregate amount of tonnage of the United States on the 30th of June last, was 2,512,001 tons. The total registered tonnage was 2,535,136, and the enrolled tonnage 2,615,730 tons besides 61,134 licensed tonnage under twenty tons. Of the registered and enrolled tonnage, 776,285 are employed in steam navigation. Of the enrolled and licensed tonnage there were employed on the coasting trade, 2,491,108; codfishery 10,192,927; mackerel fishery 10,261,829; whale fishery 40,7023. Of the registered tonnage, 186,778 tons were also employed in the whale fishery.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—We learn that on Monday last a most melancholy accident occurred about six miles from this place, which has filled many hearts with sorrow. It appears that on the morning of the above day, a little son of Mr. John K. Gardner, aged about five years, was left in the house by his mother to attend a younger child, while she was superintending some out-door business. It seems that while the children were playing near the fire, the little fellow lost his balance and fell into the fire, and was burned to such an extent before relief could be afforded, that he died in about 24 hours.—North Carolinian.

Punch has a capital hit at the generals who return from the war. Sir Colin Campbell is accosted by a little drummer (who advances before the whole army drawn out in battle array) "Please general, may I and these other chaps have leave to go home on urgent private affairs." Punch says it is nothing but the new game of "follow my leader."

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.—The estimated expenditures of the U. S. War Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1857, are: Army proper, \$12,123,430; Subsistence, \$173,894; Fortifications, ordnance, &c., \$2,700,000. Total, \$15,627,480.

A Western publisher lately gave notice that he intended to spend fifty dollars for the purpose of getting up a "new head" for his paper. The next day one of his subscribers dropped him the following note:—"Don't do it. Better keep the money, and buy a 'new head' for the editor."

Hogs.—Several droves of hogs have entered Yorkville, S. C., this season. One of them was sold out at 6 cts. gross. The others were demanding 6j.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—Naval Stores.—All kinds are on the decline. Last sale of Old Stores—Spirits Turpentine, \$1.60; Tar \$1.85; white, Rosin \$1.50; Yellow do. \$1.40; Spirits Turpentine at 38c. per gallon. Cotton—This article has sold very irregular for the last ten days. Last sale at 84c. per bale. Downy Grain—New corn begins to make its appearance and sells from 73 to 75c. for Hyde on white; Old is about out of market and we omit quotations.

FOREIGN MARKETS.—Meffen's Circular quotes red wheat 11s. 8d.; white 12s. 6d.; Western Canal flour 42s. 4c.; Southern 44s. 4c.; Flour has declined 6d. and Wheat 12d. Lard is selling at 70s. Bacon is wanted. Money is low, and the money market was easier. Consols advanced 1/4 per cent. and quoted at 89 1/2. American stocks have improved, with large sales. The three per cent. consols at Paris on Friday at 4 francs.

Liverpool Market.—Wool, with New Zealand, is the market is dull. Western Canal Flour is quoted at 42s. 6d. 40s. 40s.—mixed 45s.; yellow 46s. Prices are slightly lower.

Cotton.—The market closed firm and unchanged for midling; fair cotton has declined 1/4, with a better feeling at the close of the market.

Provisions.—Beef is quiet—Mess 120s. Pork is quiet—Sales of Western Prime Mess at 85s. Lard has declined 1/4 at 68s. The market closing quiet. The Admiralty contracts for the navy for provisions, &c., for the year 1856-57, have been taken up. The average price of beef is 47 1/2s. per tierce; pork 29. American pork tenders to the extent of 10,000 packages have been accepted at 48s 1/2 and 49s.

Produce Market.—Rice is inactive. Spirits turpentine 75s. 6d. 76s. 6d. Rosin 8s.

Marine Intelligence.

PORT OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA.

ARRIVED.

Dec. 13.—Sch. Benet Flanner, Applegate, from New York to J. H. Flanner.

Sch. H. E. Weston, Maloy, from Philadelphia, to Geo. Harries, with cargo.

Sch. J. H. Weston, Maloy, from Philadelphia, to Geo. Harries, with cargo.

MARRIED.

On the 11th inst., by the Rev. Wm. Vernon, Mr. GEORGE W. KORNGOLD, to Miss ANN PRICE, daughter of Joseph Price, Esq., of Wayne County, N. C. In this town, on the 18th inst., by Rev. Rev. J